

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element for tubes for medical use, comprising:

a main body defining at least one fluid passage between a first opening and a second opening, said second opening being positioned ~~which is at a first distance from~~ said first opening, said main body being ~~designed~~ configured to be attachable to the end of a first tube, and

a shut-off element made of an elastically deformable material, said shut-off element being ~~and~~ at least partly housed inside the main body, to allow or prevent, ~~as required,~~ fluid communication between said first and second openings of the main body, said shut-off element comprising ~~in turn:~~

a fixing portion engaged on the main body;

an intermediate portion extending from said fixing portion, said intermediate portion having a longitudinal axis of symmetry and being axially deformable; ~~and~~

a sealing portion extending ~~on~~ from the intermediate portion and ~~designed~~ configured to be moved, at least between a first operating condition, in which the sealing portion shuts off the first opening and prevents said fluid communication between the first and second openings, and a second operating condition in which the sealing portion is positioned at a second distance from the first opening to allow fluid communication between said first and second openings; and

an outer surface having a transverse end surface and a lateral surface,  
said transverse end surface and said lateral surface being configured, in said  
second operating condition, to be swept by a fluid;

at least said ~~deformable~~ intermediate portion of the shut-off element being  
~~designed~~ configured to deform symmetrically during the transition from said first  
operating condition to said second operating condition.

2. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ claim 1, wherein, in said ~~closed~~ first operating condition, the sealing portion of the  
shut-off element cooperates with a leading edge defining said first opening, said sealing  
portion ~~being capable of~~ being positioned level with the leading edge so that the  
~~connector~~ connection element has a continuous distal surface.

3. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ claim 2, wherein, in said ~~closed~~ first operating condition, the sealing portion of the  
shut-off element is flush with said leading edge to define a distal surface of the  
~~connector~~ connection element that is smooth and flat or slightly curved.

4. (Canceled.)

5. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein said lateral surface ~~is in the form of~~ constitutes a surface of  
revolution about said longitudinal axis of ~~longitudinal~~ symmetry.

6. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ claim 1, wherein the main body defines, in combination with said shut-off  
element, a fluid channel ~~of~~ having an axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said  
longitudinal axis of symmetry of ~~the shut-off element~~ said intermediate portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 6, wherein the fluid channel has an axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of ~~the shut-off element~~ said intermediate portion, both in said ~~closed~~ second operating condition and in said ~~open~~ first operating condition.

8. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 1, wherein said main body comprises:  
an outer body of essentially tubular configuration, and  
a core fixed to the outer body, said core ~~and~~ having an attachment portion for the fixing portion of the shut-off element to engage with.

9. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 8, wherein said core extends coaxially with the shut-off element in a radially inward position with respect to the outer body.

10. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 9, wherein said core has a tubular expansion at the an axially opposite end from said attachment portion and from said shut-off element.

11. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 10, wherein the main body defines, in combination with said shut-off element, a fluid channel of having an axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of ~~the shut-off element~~ said intermediate portion[:]), ~~the fluid channel having axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of the shut-off element~~, both in said ~~closed~~ second operating condition and in said ~~open~~ first operating condition[:]), the fluid channel comprising:

a distal portion extending between said shut-off body and said outer body;  
a proximal portion extending inside said tubular expansion, and  
a joining portion between said distal and proximal portions of said fluid  
channel, extending through an intermediate section of the core between said  
tubular expansion and said attachment portion.

12. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ 11, wherein the distal portion of the fluid channel has a radial dimension  
greater than the proximal portion, said joining portion comprising openings formed on  
said intermediate section, said openings and converging progressively towards said  
proximal portion of the fluid channel.

13. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ 12, wherein the ~~converging~~ openings formed on said intermediate section  
are formed in symmetrically opposing pairs with respect to said longitudinal axis of  
symmetry of said intermediate portion.

14. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ 11, wherein the intermediate portion of the shut-off element is ~~capable of~~  
~~deforming~~ configured to axially deform while maintaining an ~~essentially a~~ substantially  
constant radial dimension, so that said distal portion of the fluid channel has an  
~~essentially a~~ substantially constant annular cross section.

15. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to  
~~Claim claim~~ 1, further comprising means for removably coupling the main body to an  
auxiliary connection element connectable to a second tube.

16. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 1, further comprising at least one first annular sealing element engaged on ~~the a distal surface of the~~ outside of said main body, ~~on said distal surface~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 15, comprising a first annular sealing element engaged on ~~the a distal surface of the~~ outside of said main body ~~on said distal surface~~, and a second annular sealing element engaged on the outside of the main body at an axial distance from the first sealing element, said ~~coupling~~ means for removably coupling being configured to operate ~~operating~~ between said first and second annular sealing elements.

18. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 1, wherein said main body ~~is made of~~ includes a rigid material.

19. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 11, wherein said tubular expansion is ~~designed~~ configured to be engaged to ~~of so that a terminal portion of the first tube can be engaged upon it.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 11, wherein the sealing portion, the intermediate portion, and the fixing portion are made of a single piece of elastomeric material.

21. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ claim 8, wherein ~~the a lateral surface of the~~ outer body presents at least a passage ~~on its lateral surface~~, the outer body externally carrying a grip body having at least a protrusion passing through said passage and joining the external body to the core.

22. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 21, wherein the core ~~presents a recess on its lateral surface engaging with~~ has a lateral surface, the lateral surface having a recess that engages ~~said protrusion~~ said protrusion.

23. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 22, wherein the recess is annular and said protrusion defines an undercut with respect to the outer body.

24. (Currently Amended) A connection ~~Connection~~ element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 21, wherein the lateral surface of the outer body presents a plurality of ~~said~~ passages ~~on its lateral surface~~, the outer body externally carrying a the grip body having a corresponding plurality of protrusions passing through said passages and joining the external body to the core.

25. (Currently Amended) An assembling ~~Assembling~~ process of a connecting element according to ~~Claim claim~~ 21, comprising the following steps of:

preparing the outer body;

preparing the core;

positioning the core coaxially inside the outer body; and

moulding the grip body over the outer body for creating the protrusion ~~which goes~~ extending through said passage, said protrusion ~~and engages~~ engaging said recess thereby axially connecting the core to the outer body.

26. (Currently Amended) A connecting ~~Connecting~~ device for tubes for medical use, comprising a ~~connector~~ connection element in accordance with ~~Claim~~ claim 1.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A connecting device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 26, comprising an auxiliary connection element connectable to a terminal portion of a second tube and ~~designed~~ configured to be engaged removably on the main body of said ~~connector~~ connection element to ~~give~~ provide fluid communication between the first tube and the second tube.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A connecting device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 27, wherein the auxiliary connection element ~~in turn~~ comprises a an auxiliary main body defining at least one auxiliary fluid passage and having a coupling portion that mates with said outer body and a male element emerging from a base of said coupling portion, said male element being ~~designed~~ configured to push said sealing portion of the shut-off member from said ~~closed~~ second operating condition to said ~~open~~ first operating condition.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A connecting device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 28, wherein the male element is of an axial-symmetric configuration with an axis of symmetry aligned with that of said shut-off element, when the ~~connector~~ connection element and auxiliary connection element are in mutual engagement.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A connecting device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 28, wherein the male element comprises a collar with lateral ports arranged symmetrically with respect to said axis of symmetry, for ~~the~~ a fluid to pass through.

31. (Currently Amended) A peritoneal ~~Peritoneal~~ dialysis line comprising:  
at least one tube ~~designed~~ configured to be placed in communication with a peritoneum of a patient; ~~and~~

at least one second tube ~~designed~~ configured to be placed in communication with at least one container of a fluid to be infused into said peritoneum ~~and/or~~ or with a container for draining a fluid coming from the peritoneum; and  
a connecting device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 26.

32. (Currently Amended) A tube ~~Tube~~ for a peritoneal dialysis line, comprising at least one terminal portion fitted with a connection element in accordance with ~~Claim~~ claim 1.

33. (New) A connection element for tubes for medical use, comprising:  
a main body defining at least one fluid passage between a first opening and a second opening, said second opening being positioned at a first distance from said first opening, said main body being configured to be attachable to an end of a first tube, said main body having an outer body of essentially tubular configuration and a core fixed to the outer body;

a shut-off element made of an elastically deformable material, said shut-off element being at least partly housed inside the main body, to allow or prevent fluid communication between said first and second openings of the main body, said shut-off element comprising:

a fixing portion engaged on the main body,  
an intermediate portion extending from said fixing portion, said intermediate portion having a longitudinal axis of symmetry and being axially deformable, and  
a sealing portion extending from the intermediate portion and configured to be moved, at least between a first operating condition, in which the sealing



portion shuts off the first opening and prevents said fluid communication between the first and second openings, and a second operating condition in which the sealing portion is positioned at a second distance from the first opening to allow fluid communication between said first and second openings,

at least said intermediate portion of the shut-off element being configured to deform symmetrically during the transition from said first operating condition to said second operating condition,

said core of the main body extending coaxially with the shut-off element in a radially inward position with respect to said outer body, said core further having an attachment portion for the fixing portion of the shut-off element to engage with, and a tubular expansion at an axially opposite end from said attachment portion and from said shut-off element, and

said main body further defining, in combination with said shut-off element, a fluid channel having an axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of the intermediate portion, both in said second operating condition and in said first operating condition, the fluid channel comprising:

a distal portion extending between said shut-off body and said outer body,

a proximal portion extending inside said tubular expansion, and

a joining portion between said distal and proximal portions of said fluid channel, said joining portion extending through an intermediate section of the core between said tubular expansion and said attachment portion, said distal portion having a radial dimension greater than the proximal portion, and said joining portion having openings formed on said intermediate section, said

openings converging progressively towards said proximal portion of the fluid channel.

34. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, wherein the openings formed on said intermediate section are formed in symmetrically opposing pairs with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry.

35. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, wherein the intermediate portion of the shut-off element is configured to deform axially while maintaining a substantially constant radial dimension, so that said distal portion of the fluid channel has a substantially constant annular cross section.

36. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, further comprising means for removably coupling the main body to an auxiliary connection element connectable to a second tube.

37. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, further comprising at least one first annular sealing element engaged on a distal surface of the outside of said main body.

38. (New) A connection element according to claim 36, comprising a first annular sealing element engaged on a distal surface of the outside of said main body, and a second annular sealing element engaged on the outside of the main body at an axial distance from the first sealing element, said coupling means operating between said first and second annular sealing elements.

39. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, wherein said main body includes a rigid material.

40. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, wherein said tubular expansion is configured to be engaged to a terminal portion of the first tube.

41. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, wherein the sealing portion, the intermediate portion, and the fixing portion are made of a single piece of elastomeric material.

42. (New) A connection element according to claim 33, wherein the outer body has a lateral surface, the lateral surface having a passage, the outer body externally carrying a grip body having at least a protrusion passing through said passage and joining the external body to the core.

43. (New) A connection element according to claim 42, wherein a lateral surface of the core presents a recess engaging with said protrusion.

44. (New) A connection element according to claim 43, wherein the recess is annular and said protrusion defines an undercut with respect to the outer body.

45. (New) A connection element according to claim 42, wherein the lateral surface of the outer body presents a plurality of passages, the outer body externally carrying the grip body having a corresponding plurality of protrusions passing through said passages and joining the external body to the core.

46. (New) An assembling process of a connecting element according to claim 42, comprising the steps of:

preparing the outer body;

preparing the core;

positioning the core coaxially inside the outer body; and

moulding the grip body over the outer body for creating the protrusion extending through said passage, said protrusion engaging said recess thereby axially connecting the core to the outer body.

47. (New) A connecting device for tubes for medical use, comprising a connection element in accordance with claim 33.

48. (New) A connecting device according to claim 47, comprising an auxiliary connection element configured to connect to a terminal portion of a second tube and configured to be engaged removably on the main body of said connection element to provide fluid communication between the first tube and the second tube.

49. (New) A connecting device according to claim 48, wherein the auxiliary connection element comprises an auxiliary main body defining at least one auxiliary fluid passage, the auxiliary main body having a coupling portion that mates with said outer body, and a male element emerging from a base of said coupling portion, said male element being configured to push said sealing portion of the shut-off member from said second operating condition to said first operating condition.

50. (New) A connecting device according to claim 49, wherein the male element has an axial-symmetric configuration with an axis of symmetry aligned with the longitudinal axis of symmetry of said intermediate portion, when the connection element and the auxiliary connection element are in mutual engagement.

51. (New) A connecting device according to claim 49, wherein the male element comprises a collar with lateral ports arranged symmetrically with respect to said axis of symmetry of the male element, for a fluid to pass through.

52. (New) A peritoneal dialysis line comprising:

at least one tube configured to be placed in communication with a peritoneum of a patient;

at least one second tube configured to be placed in communication with at least one container of a fluid to be infused into said peritoneum or with a container for draining a fluid coming from the peritoneum; and

a connecting device according to claim 47.

53. (New) A tube for a peritoneal dialysis line, comprising at least one terminal portion fitted with a connection element in accordance with claim 33.

54. (New) A connection element for tubes for medical use, comprising:  
a main body defining at least one fluid passage between a first opening and a second opening, said second opening being positioned at a first distance from said first opening, said main body being configured to be attached to an end of a first tube, said main body having an outer body of essentially tubular configuration and a core fixed to the outer body,

a shut-off element made of an elastically deformable material, said shut-off element being at least partly housed inside the main body, to allow or prevent fluid communication between said first and second openings of the main body, said shut-off element comprising:

a fixing portion engaged on the main body,

an intermediate portion extending from said fixing portion, said intermediate portion having a longitudinal axis of symmetry and being axially deformable, and

a sealing portion extending from the intermediate portion and configured to be moved, at least between a first operating condition, in which the sealing portion shuts off the first opening and prevents said fluid communication between the first and second openings, and a second operating condition in which the sealing portion is positioned at a second distance from the first opening to allow fluid communication between said first and second openings,

at least said intermediate portion of the shut-off element being configured to deform symmetrically during the transition from said first operating condition to said second operating condition,

said core of the main body extending coaxially with the shut-off element in a radially inward position with respect to said outer body, said core further having an attachment portion for the fixing portion of the shut-off element to engage with, and a tubular expansion at an axially opposite end from said attachment portion and from said shut-off element, and

said main body further defining, in combination with said shut-off element, a fluid channel having an axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of the intermediate portion, both in said second operating condition and in said first operating condition; the fluid channel comprising:

a distal portion extending between said shut-off body and said outer body;

a proximal portion extending inside said tubular expansion, and

a joining portion between said distal and proximal portions of said channel, said joining portion extending through an intermediate section of the core between said tubular expansion and said attachment portion;

said intermediate portion of the shut-off element being configured to axially deform while maintaining a substantially constant radial dimension, so that said distal portion of the fluid channel has a substantially constant annular cross section.

55. (New) A connection element according to claim 54, wherein said main body includes a rigid material.

56. (New) A connection element according to claim 54, wherein said tubular expansion is configured to engage a terminal portion of the first tube.

57. (New) A connection element according to claim 54, wherein the sealing portion, the intermediate portion, and the fixing portion are made of a single piece of elastomeric material.

58. (New) A connecting device for tubes for medical use, further comprising a connection element in accordance with claim 54.

59. (New) A connecting device according to claim 58, further comprising an auxiliary connection element connectable to a terminal portion of a second tube and configured to be engaged removably on the main body of said connection element to give fluid communication between the first tube and second tube.

60. (New) A connecting device according to claim 59, wherein the auxiliary connection element comprises an auxiliary main body defining at least one auxiliary fluid passage, the auxiliary main body having a coupling portion that mates with said outer body, and a male element emerging from a base of said coupling portion, said male element being configured to push said sealing portion of the shut-off member from said second operating condition to said first operating condition.

61. (New) A connecting device according to claim 60, wherein the male element has an axial-symmetric configuration with an axis of symmetry aligned with the longitudinal axis of symmetry of said intermediate portion, when the connection element and the auxiliary connection element are in mutual engagement.

62. (New) A connecting device according to claim 60, wherein the male element comprises a collar with lateral ports arranged symmetrically with respect to said axis of symmetry of said male element, for a fluid to pass through.

63. (New) A peritoneal dialysis line comprising:  
at least one tube configured to be placed in communication with a peritoneum of a patient;

at least one second tube configured to be placed in communication with at least one container of a fluid to be infused into said peritoneum or with a container for draining a fluid coming from the peritoneum; and

a connecting device according to claim 58.

64. (New) A tube for a peritoneal dialysis line, comprising at least one terminal portion fitted with a connection element in accordance with claim 54.

65 (New) A connection element for tubes for medical use, comprising:  
a main body defining at least one fluid passage between a first opening and a second opening, said second opening being positioned at a first distance from said first opening, said main body being configured to be attachable to an end of a first tube, said main body having an outer body of essentially tubular configuration and a core fixed to the outer body;



a shut-off element made of an elastically deformable material, said shut-off element being at least partly housed inside the main body, to allow or prevent fluid communication between said first and second openings of the main body, said shut-off element comprising:

a fixing portion engaged on the main body,

an intermediate portion extending from said fixing portion, said intermediate portion having a longitudinal axis of symmetry and being axially deformable, and

a sealing portion extending from the intermediate portion and configured to be moved, at least between a first operating condition, in which the sealing portion shuts off the first opening and prevents said fluid communication between the first and second openings, and a second operating condition in which the sealing portion is positioned at a second distance from the first opening to allow fluid communication between said first and second openings,

at least said intermediate portion of the shut-off element being configured to deform symmetrically during the transition from said first operating condition to said second operating condition,

said core of the main body having an attachment portion for the fixing portion of the shut-off element to engage with, and

said outer body of the main body having a lateral surface, the lateral surface presenting at least a passage, the outer body externally carrying a grip body having at least a protrusion passing through said passage and joining the external body to the core of the main body.

66. (New) A connection element according to claim 65, wherein said core extends coaxially with the shut-off element in a radially inward position with respect to the outer body.

67. (New) A connection element according to claim 66, wherein said core has a tubular expansion at an axially opposite end from said attachment portion and from said shut-off element.

68. (New) A connection element according to claim 67, wherein the main body defines, in combination with said shut-off element, a fluid channel having an axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of the intermediate portion, both in said second operating condition and in said first operating condition, the fluid channel comprising:

a distal portion extending between said shut-off body and said outer body;

a proximal portion extending inside said tubular expansion, and

a joining portion between said distal and proximal portions of said fluid channel, said joining portion extending through an intermediate section of the core between said tubular expansion and said attachment portion.

69. (New) A connection element according to claim 65, further comprising means for removably coupling the main body to an auxiliary connection element configured to be connected to a second tube.

70. (New) A connection element according to claim 65, further comprising at least one first annular sealing element engaged on a distal surface of the outside of said main body.

71. (New) A connection element according to claim 69, further comprising a first annular sealing element engaged on a distal surface of the outside of said main body, and a second annular sealing element engaged on the outside of the main body at an axial distance from the first sealing element, said coupling means operating between said first and second annular sealing elements.

72. (New) A connection element according to claim 65, wherein said main body includes a rigid material.

73. (New) A connection element according to claim 68, wherein said tubular expansion is configured to be engaged to a terminal portion of the first tube.

74. (New) A connection element according to claim 68, wherein the sealing portion, the intermediate portion, and the fixing portion are made of a single piece of elastomeric material.

75. (New) A connection element according to claim 65, wherein a lateral surface of the core presents a recess engaging with said protrusion.

76. (New) A connection element according to claim 75, wherein the recess is annular and said protrusion defines an undercut with respect to the outer body.

77. (New) A connection element according to claim 65, wherein a lateral surface of the outer body presents a plurality of passages, the outer body externally carrying the grip body having a corresponding plurality of protrusions passing through said passages and joining the external body to the core.

78. (New) An assembling process of a connecting element according to claim 65, comprising the steps of:

preparing the outer body;

preparing the core;  
positioning the core coaxially inside the outer body; and  
moulding the grip body over the outer body for creating the protrusion extending through said passage, said protrusion engaging said recess thereby axially connecting the core to the outer body.

79. (New) A connecting device for tubes for medical use, comprising a connection element in accordance with claim 65.

80. (New) A connecting device according to claim 79, comprising an auxiliary connection element configured to connect to a terminal portion of a second tube and configured to be engaged removably on the main body of said connection element to provide fluid communication between the first tube and second tube.

81. (New) A connecting device according to claim 80, wherein the auxiliary connection element comprises an auxiliary main body defining at least one auxiliary fluid passage, the auxiliary main body having a coupling portion that mates with said outer body, and a male element emerging from a base of said coupling portion, said male element being configured to push said sealing portion of the shut-off member from said second operating condition to said first operating condition.

82. (New) A connecting device according to claim 81, wherein the male element has an axial-symmetric configuration with an axis of symmetry aligned with the longitudinal axis of symmetry of said intermediate portion, when the connection element and the auxiliary connection element are in mutual engagement.

83. (New) A connecting device according to claim 81, wherein the male element comprises a collar with lateral ports arranged symmetrically with respect to said axis of symmetry of said male element, for a fluid to pass through.

84. (New) A peritoneal dialysis line comprising:  
at least one tube configured to be placed in communication with a peritoneum of a patient;

at least one second tube configured to be placed in communication with at least one container of a fluid to be infused into said peritoneum or with a container for draining a fluid coming from the peritoneum; and

a connecting device according to claim 79.

85. (New) A tube for a peritoneal dialysis line, comprising at least one terminal portion fitted with a connection element in accordance with claim 65.

86. (New) A connecting device for tubes for medical use, comprising a connection element having:

a main body defining at least one fluid passage between a first opening and a second opening, said second opening being positioned at a first distance from said first opening, said main body being configured to be attachable to an end of a first tube;

a shut-off element made of an elastically deformable material, said shut-off element being at least partly housed inside the main body, to allow or prevent fluid communication between said first and second openings of the main body, said shut-off element comprising:

a fixing portion engaged on the main body;

an intermediate portion extending from said fixing portion, said intermediate portion having a longitudinal axis of symmetry and being axially deformable; and

a sealing portion extending from the intermediate portion and configured to be moved, at least between a first operating condition, in which the sealing portion shuts off the first opening and prevents said fluid communication between the first and second openings, and a second operating condition in which the sealing portion is positioned at a second distance from the first opening to allow fluid communication between said first and second openings;

at least said intermediate portion of the shut-off element being configured to deform symmetrically during the transition from said first operating condition to said second operating condition;

said connecting device further comprising an auxiliary connection element configured to connect to a terminal portion of a second tube and configured to be engaged removably on the main body of said connection element to provide fluid communication between the first tube and the second tube, said auxiliary connection element having an auxiliary main body defining at least one auxiliary fluid passage, said auxiliary main body having a coupling portion that mates with said outer body, and a male element emerging from a base of said coupling portion,

said male element being configured to push said sealing portion of the shut-off member from said second operating condition to said first operating condition, said male element being having an axial-symmetric configuration with an axis of symmetry aligned with that of said intermediate portion, when the connection element and auxiliary

connection element are in mutual engagement, said male element further having a collar with lateral ports arranged symmetrically with respect to said axis of symmetry of the male element, for a fluid to pass through.

87. (New) A connection element according to claim 86, wherein said core extends coaxially with the shut-off element in a radially inward position with respect to the outer body.

88. (New) A connection element according to claim 87, wherein said core has a tubular expansion at an axially opposite end from said attachment portion and from said shut-off element.

89. (New) A connection element according to claim 88, wherein the main body defines, in combination with said shut-off element, a fluid channel having an axial-symmetric configuration with respect to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of the intermediate portion, both in said second operating condition and in said first operating condition; the fluid channel comprising:

a distal portion extending between said shut-off body and said outer body;

a proximal portion extending inside said tubular expansion, and

a joining portion between said distal and proximal portions of said fluid channel, extending through an intermediate section of the core between said tubular expansion and said attachment portion.

90. (New) A connection element according to claim 86, comprising means for removably coupling the main body to an auxiliary connection element configured to connect to a second tube.

91. (New) A connection element according to claim 86, comprising at least one first annular sealing element engaged on a distal surface of the outside of said main body.

92. (New) A connection element according to claim 90, comprising a first annular sealing element engaged on a distal surface of the outside of said main body, and a second annular sealing element engaged on the outside of the main body at an axial distance from the first sealing element, said coupling means operating between said first and second annular sealing elements.

93. (New) A connection element according to claim 86, wherein said main body includes a rigid material.

94. (New) A connection element according to claim 89, wherein said tubular expansion is configured to be engaged to a terminal portion of the first tube.

95. (New) A connection element according to claim 89, wherein the sealing portion, the intermediate portion, and the fixing portion are made of a single piece of elastomeric material.

96. (New) A peritoneal dialysis line comprising:  
at least one tube configured to be placed in communication with a peritoneum of a patient;  
at least one second tube configured to be placed in communication with at least one container of a fluid to be infused into said peritoneum or with a container for draining a fluid coming from the peritoneum; and  
a connecting device according to claim 86.



97. (New) A tube for a peritoneal dialysis line, comprising at least one terminal portion fitted with a connection element in accordance with claim 86.